GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5882
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
APPOINTMENT OF SPECIAL CO-ORDINATOR ON KASHMIR
RAGHUNANDAN LAL BHATIA

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned `US to appoint Kashmir co-ordinator` appearing in the Asian Age dated March 14, 2000;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

(SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) Yes, Sir. Government has seen the news item referred to in the Question.

(b) After the Kargil intrusion and the adverse comments in the US circles on the armed intrusion, there was an attempt to seek the support of the members of the US Congress for the appointment of a Special US Envoy for Kashmir.The news item, written before President Clinton`s visit, quotes unnamed `diplomatic observers` in Delhi as suggesting that the US may appoint a Special Co-ordinator for Kashmir after President Clinton`s visit.

(c) Government does not react to comments attributed to unnamed non-official sources. Government has noted that the US Administration had rejected the proposal to appoint a Special Envoy for Kashmir.During his visit to India, President Clinton had stated that the US will not mediate on Kashmir.